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Urban District of Whittlesey

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1958.

OFFICERS OF THE WHITTLESEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Medical Officer of Health:

D.C.Logan, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector:

D.A.Bamford, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

OFFICES OF THE WHITTLESEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
6, Delph Street,
Whittlesey.

Telephone No. Whittlesey 2312-3

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area in acres	23, 362
Number of Inhabited Houses	3, 021
Rateable Value (at 31.12.58.)	£86, 355
Product of 1d. rate (at 31.3.58.)	£345. 10s. 7d.
Population (Registrar General's figures).	8,940

TO: THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
WHITTLESEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to submit my Annual Report on the health of the population of the town for the year 1958.

It affords me much pleasure to record once again the most efficient and gracious assistance I have had from Mr. Bamford and Mrs. Tyers in the Health Department.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

D. C. LOGAN.

Medical Officer of Health.

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VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	82	85	167
Illegitimate	6	8	14
Total :	88	93	181

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Population.

Whittlesey Urban District	-	20.25
Whittlesey Urban District adjusted	-	20.25
England & Wales	-	16.4

STILL-BIRTHS

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total :	1	1	2

Still-birth rate per 1,000 Live & Still-births

Whittlesey Urban District	-	10.93
England & Wales	-	21.6

The still birth rate is regarded as a measure of the success or otherwise of antenatal care. The low rate (10.93) recorded for the year is regarded as extremely satisfactory and reflects a high standard of antenatal care.

TOTAL LIVE & STILL BIRTHS

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	83	86	169
Illegitimate	6	8	14
Total :	89	94	183

INFANT DEATHS

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total :	-	-	-

Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 Live Births

Whittlesey Urban District	-	0.0
England & Wales	-	22.5

The fact that no death of any child under one year was reported during the year demonstrates quite clearly that maternal care, nursing skill and medical attention were adequate.

Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births

Whittlesey Urban District	-	0.0
England and Wales	-	16.2

Percentage of Illegitimate Live Births

Whittlesey Urban District	-	7.73

MATERNAL DEATHS (including abortion)

Whittlesey Urban District	-	0
England and Wales	-	326

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live & Still Births

Whittlesey Urban District	-	0.0
England and Wales	-	0.43

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Few infectious diseases were encountered during the year.

The County Health Department continued to carry out immunisation against poliomyelitis.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following cases of infectious diseases were notified during 1958 :-

Disease	M.	F.	Total.
Pneumonia	7	8	15
Measles	7	2	9
Tuberculosis (non.Pulmonary)	2	4	6
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	1	4	5
Scarlet Fever	2	2	4
Jaundice	3	1	4
Whooping Cough	1	1	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorium	1	-	1
Total :			47

DEATHS (ALL CAUSES)

Male. 39 Female. 35 Total. 74

Death Rate -

Whittlesey Urban District	- per 1,000 estimated population	8.27
Adjusted Death Rate	- per 1,000 estimated population	9.1
England and Wales	- per 1,000 estimated population	11.7

Causes of Deaths in the Whittlesey Urban District, as supplied by the Registrar General for 1958 :-

	Male	Female
Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-
Tuberculosis, other	-	1
Syphilitic disease	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis	-	-
Measles	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	-
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	-
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	2	3
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-
Diabetes	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	13
Coronary disease, angina	9	3
Hypertension with heart disease	2	1
Other heart disease	3	6
Other circulatory disease	3	-
Influenza	-	1
Pneumonia	3	1
Bronchitis	2	-
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-
Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	2	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
Congenital malformations	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	2
Motor vehicle accidents	-	-
All other accidents	1	-
Suicide	-	1
Homicide and operations of war	-	-
Total :	39	35

TO: THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE

WHITTLESEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my third Annual Report on the work carried out in the 1958.

The number of families re-housed from condemned dwellings was greater than that of the previous year. Now that the first bungalows have been completed and more are proposed the slum clearance programme can be carried out area by area.

I should like to acknowledge the support received from the Public Health Committee and the Medical Officer of Health. The Clerk of the Council and the Surveyor have always been most helpful and Mrs Tyers has cheerfully and ably carried out her work in the department.

I am, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

D. A. BAMFORD.

Public Health Inspector.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

Two samples of mains water were submitted for bacteriological examination, both were classed as satisfactory.

Frequent orthotolodine tests were carried out on the water supply and in all cases a satisfactory amount of free chlorine was found to be present.

The Town's water is purchased from Peterborough Corporation.

Total consumption 1958	89, 879, 000 gallons
Average daily consumption	245, 970 gallons

It is estimated that 2780 houses are supplied with water either direct to the house or by means of stand-pipes. Many houses in the town area are still supplied from stand-pipes.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

A few houses with pails or vaults had water lavatories fixed and were connected to the sewer. Several houses in the unsewered parts of the district have been provided with water lavatories connected to septic tanks.

In spite of the high water table in most parts of the district properly designed and constructed septic tanks appear to work satisfactorily. There has been one area where 7 dwellings have cesspools at the front boundaries. These cesspools are small and were provided as a temporary measure in anticipation of the street being sewered. To prevent a nuisance from overflowing liquids the cesspools are being emptied monthly. This, however, is only makeshift, the remedy is the provision of a sewer.

NIGHTSOIL COLLECTION.

The Council undertake emptying of pails, vaults and cesspools from properties where no sewer is available. This work is let by Contract annually.

278 pails are emptied three times in every 14 days. There were 131 cesspools and vaults emptied during the year.

Several delays occurred in emptying vaults and cesspools and some complaints were made about the pail emptying. These points were taken up with the Contractor.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

Household and trade refuse is collected by two vehicles. The large Shelvoke & Drewry vehicle is manned by a driver and three loaders and collects trade refuse and household refuse in the town area, giving a weekly service. The Dennis vehicle is manned by a driver and one loader and collects household refuse from the outside areas. Built up areas such as Coates and Eastrea have a weekly service, other areas have a three weekly service.

Regular collections were made except just after the Easter, Whitsuntide and Christmas Holidays when the rounds were delayed and the amount of refuse was consequently greater. The foreman and collectors have given cheerful and willing service and there have been few complaints.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

The tip in New Road has not given rise to any nuisance. Tipping is done in narrow fingers to prevent a wide unsightly face and to cut down nuisances from smells and flies. In addition to household and trade refuse collected by the Council's vehicles the tip is used for the disposal of wastes from slaughterhouses, scrap from garages and many tons of potatoes from farms.

Intermittent infestations of rats were poison baited when necessary.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are two registered common lodging houses. Both of them are well maintained.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.

Twenty-one single sites are registered and are satisfactory.

Cheshire's Yard is the only camp with Planning permission. This site is well kept and of a good standard.

There are three multiple sites which, although up to the public health byelaw standard for facilities, are badly laid out and have some bus bodies instead of properly built caravans. These bus bodies are not adapted for living in and are often overcrowded.

INSPECTIONS.

The following table summarises the inspections made in 1958 :-

	Inspections	Informal Notices	Statutory Notices
Cesspool, pail and vault work	72	7	-
Factories, Workshops and Bakehouses	41	4	-
Slaughterhouses and Butcher's Shops	455	-	-
Food Shops	37	5	-
Restaurants	15	1	-
Verminous and Filthy Premises	7	2	-
Housing	185	23	-
Nuisances	30	11	-
Rats and Mice	42	2	-
Caravan Sites	47	8	-
Refuse Collection and Disposal	53	-	-

Of the 63 informal notices served 54 were complied with.

DISINFESTATION AND DISINFECTION.

No infestation of bed bugs was reported or found.

One infestation of fleas was found and the premises treated.

HOUSING.

Number of Houses erected during 1958 :-

By Local Authority	11 Bungalows
By Private Enterprise	53 Houses and Bungalows

12 applications were received for Improvement Grants all of which were approved and received grants.

8 dwellings were dealt with by Demolition Orders and 12 were the subject of Closing Orders. 2 dwellings were demolished which were the subject of Clearance Orders made in 1938. Altogether 13 families were re-housed from condemned property.

Of the dwellings which were subject to Clearance or Demolition Orders in 1938, 47 were occupied at the 1st January 1958. 7 were vacated during the year and none of these were re-let.

The first old peoples bungalows to be built in the town were completed at the end of the year. These bungalows will help to fill a long felt need and enabled a start to be made on unfit houses occupied by elderly people.

It was decided to build 18 houses on Eastfield Drive and when completed these will be used in conjunction with the Slum Clearance Scheme.

RENT ACT, 1957.

A sub-committee of six members dealt with applications and this cut down delays in issuing the necessary forms and certificates.

8 applications for certificates of disrepair were received, these were considered to be substantiated and notices of intention to issue certificates were served on the owners, in 1 case for all the defects and in the 7 others for some of the defects. 8 Landlord's Undertakings to carry out the necessary repairs were accepted and 1 Certificate of Disrepair was issued.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

Inspections made (under the Factories Act) for 1958.

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	20	16	-	-
Factories in which Section 7 is enforced	41	25	-	-
Other premises	5	9	-	-
TOTAL :	66	50	-	-

Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Found	Number of Cases in which Defects were found			Number of Cases in which Prosecutions were Instituted
		Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-
Closet Unsuitable or Defective	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL :	-	-	-	-	-

OUTWORK SECTIONS 110 & 111

There are no outworkers in the district

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY.

Two Dealer's Licences were issued authorising the use of the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" and two Licences authorising the use of the special designation "Pasteurised".

Fourteen licences were issued authorising the use of the special designation "Sterilised".

Thirteen milk samples were taken for keeping quality, three were unsatisfactory. The unsatisfactory samples arose out of a check on the handling of milk by a Dealer. It was found that milk was being kept too long at atmospheric temperature. The Dealer re-organised his collection of milk from farms and subsequent samples were satisfactory. To prevent further failures a cold room has now been constructed at the Dairy.

ICE-CREAM

There are 31 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream; all the ice-cream being pre-packed. The only loose ice-cream sold in the area is sold from vehicles.

There is no ice-cream manufactured in the area.

CONDEMNED FOOD.

10 certificates were issued covering 14 items of foodstuffs which were voluntarily surrendered by shopkeepers.

It was not found necessary to seize any diseased or unsound food.

Condemned food is disposed of by burying in the Council's Refuse Tip.

Some meat from the Knacker's Yard is taken by a trader in cat and dog meat and sold in the district from a van. This meat is not stained.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are six licensed slaughterhouses one of which is used only occasionally for the slaughter of pigs. These slaughterhouses are conducted in a satisfactory manner.

KNACKER'S YARD.

There is one licensed knacker's yard which is satisfactory.

No live animals are brought on to the premises but are slaughtered on the farms.

FOOD PREPARATION.

A further gradual improvement was made in the standard of Food Premises. Food handling is still poor in some premises and the practice of smoking whilst handling food still goes on.

Premises registered for the making up of food	11
Fish Friers	4
Bakehouses	3
Cafes	4
Other food shops	40
Public Houses	34

MEAT INSPECTION.

Ante-mortem inspection is made whenever possible. All carcases are inspected, even during leave periods when in the town. When out of town on leave the Thorney Rural District Council Public Health Inspector is available if the butchers find any disease.

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle (excluding cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	178	-	-	705	1167	-
Number inspected	174	-	-	688	1140	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	1	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	19	-	-	12	23	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticerci	10.92	-	-	1.74	2.01	-
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	5	-	-	-	14	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	2.87	-	-	-	1.22	-
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

MEAT CONDEMNED

Bovines

3 sets of lungs, 2 heads and tongues affected with tuberculosis	Total weight :-	90 lbs.
8 livers with distomatosis		63 lbs.
5 livers with abscesses		63 lbs.
5 parts with bruising		112 lbs.
1 pluck with inflammation		32 lbs.

Pigs

14 pigs heads and tongues affected with tuberculosis	Total weight :-	204 lbs.
12 livers with hepatitis		42 lbs.
7 hearts and lungs with inflammation		19 lbs.
1 whole pig and offal with bruising		282 lbs.
2 parts with bruising		82 lbs.
2 livers with cirrhosis		9 lbs.

Sheep

12 livers with distoma	33 lbs.